

ABSTRACT

An **personal** electronic apparatus for providing security of specified electronic transactions, the **personal** electronic apparatus comprising an article removably inserted into the **personal** electronic apparatus, the article bearing a machine readable code; customer-specific code installed in the **personal** electronic apparatus, the code effecting the operation of the **personal** electronic apparatus; verifying means for determining whether the article is installed in the **personal** electronic apparatus, and, if so, for enabling specified electronic transactions, but, if not, for preventing said transactions; whereby, upon a specified request by the user, the **personal** electronic apparatus queries whether the article is installed, and, if so, enables specified transactions to be performed at the request of the user, but prevents the transaction from being performed if the article is not installed. A method of setting up the foregoing system is provided comprising the creation of a customer account at a bank pursuant to communication with the customer; creating customer-specific software with the bank, then splitting into a first portion and a second portion; mailing an article with the first portion thereon to the customer who then inserts the article into the **personal** electronic apparatus; a customer contacting the bank download server via the Internet and downloading the second portion to the **personal** electronic apparatus, then the bank download server erasing a copy of the second portion therefrom, but retaining relevant information on the bank purchase server; and the **personal** electronic apparatus linking the first and second software portions into working software on the **personal** electronic apparatus. A system of sub-accounts for each customer account is also disclosed allowing for separate accounting for various purchases and other financial transactions in different account set ups.